

20 March 2006
Monday

READINGS

Psalm 77; Genesis 44:18-34; I Corinthians 7:25-31; Mark 5:21-43

DEVOTION

St. Mark 5:21-43 talks about how a ruler of a synagogue begged Jesus to come to his house to place His hand on the man's 12 year old daughter as she lay dying. In fact, while Jesus was on His way to the house, a messenger from the synagogue had announced that the little girl had died and that there was no reason for Jesus to be troubled any longer. Jesus went on to the house anyway and when He arrived told those gathered around the girl not to weep because the damsel was merely sleeping. He then took her hand and told her to rise, which she did.

This story has a special meaning for me. Two weeks before deploying to Iraq, I received alarming news that my father's heart surgery resulted in unstoppable internal bleeding and the doctors only gave him several hours to live. I rushed home to Florida on emergency leave in the hopes of seeing him alive one more time but when I arrived he was too sedated to recognize my presence. However, when I took his hand and spoke to him, my father's eyes turned in my direction, so maybe he did realize that I was by his side. Analogous to the damsel in St. Mark chapter 5, dad was also merely sleeping, and my faith tells me to believe that Jesus also took my father's hand that morning and told him to arise. And arose he did, although, unlike the little girl, rather than rise among us, the living, my father arose into God's heavenly kingdom where he now watches over me and the rest of our family.

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